THE PRINCIPAL

# ACTS

OF THE

## General Assembly

OF THE

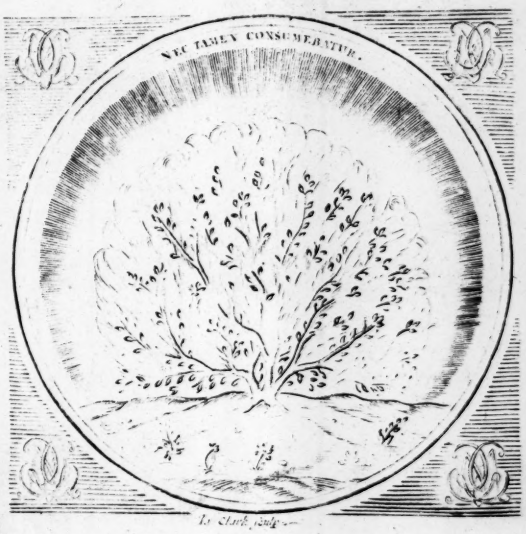
# CHURCH

OF

# SCOTLAND,

Conveened at *Edinburgh. January* 11. 1698;

*Collected and Extracted from the Records, By the Clerk thereof.*




*EDINBURGH,*

Printed by *George Mosman*, Printer to this CHURCH and Its ASSEMBLIES. *Anno Domini* M. DC. XCVIII.

A

THE PRINCIPAL

# ACTS

OF THE

# General Assembly

OF THE

# CHURCH

OF

# SCOTLAND,

Holden and Begun at *Edinburgh*, the 11 Day of *January* 1698, and ending the 24 of the same Moneth.

## I,

*The Recording of His Majestie's Commission, To the Lord* CARMICHAEL, *for Representing His* MAJESTY *in this* Assembly.

*At Edinburgh* 11 *January* 1698. Sess. I.

THIS Day, The General Assembly of the Ministers and Elders of this National Church, being Conveened, There was produced to them, by a Noble Lord, *JOHN* Lord *Carmichael*, His Majestie's *Commission*, under the Great Seal of this Kingdom, Nominating and Appointing Him to be His Majestie's High Commissioner and

Repreſentative in this National Aſſembly, which was publickly Read in their Audience, with all due Honour and Reſpect, and the General Aſſembly Appointed and hereby Appoints, the ſame to be Recorded in the Regiſters of this Aſſembly, therein to remain *ad futuram rei Memoriam*, The *Tenor* whereof follows.

"*GULIELMUS* Dei Gratia Magnæ *Britanniæ*, *Fran-*
"*ciæ* & *Hiberniæ* Rex, Fideique Defenſor: Omnibus probis
"Hominibus, ad quos præſentes Literæ Noſtræ pervenerint,
"*Salutem*, Quandoquidem ex Decreto Noſtro, Generalis
"Eccleſiæ conventus, Antiquioris noſtri Regni *Scotiæ* in *un-*
"*decimum* diem Menſis *Januarii* inſtantis Continuatus erat,
"Noſque autem abundè cupidi, quin etiam neceſſarium eſſe
"Judicantes in commodum dictæ Eccleſiæ, ut idem *Generalis*
"*Conventus* Die ſtatuto debite obſervetur ſed rebus magni mo-
"menti alio vocantibus, dicto conventui intereſſe nequimus,
"Cumque Fideliſſimus & Dilectiſſimus noſter Conſiliarius *Jo-*
"*annes Dominus Carmichael*, perplurima edidit ſpecimina, de
"Facultatibus ſuis Eximijs, & fidelitate inſigni, unde nobis ab-
"unde Satisfactum eſt, Quod ad munera ſummi Officii Infra-
"mentionati rite Exercenda & obeunda, in finem ſupra ex-
"preſſum uſquequaque eſt idoneus, Noveritis igitur Nos
"feciſſe & Conſtituiſſe, ſicuti per has noſtras parentes literas
"facimus & conſtituimus Eundem *Joannem Dominum Car-*
"*michael*, Supremum Noſtrum Commiſſionarium quoad
"Effectum infraexpreſſum; Damus pariter & Concedimus
"illi, Sacram noſtram perſonam, & Authoritatem Noſtram
"Regalem Repreſentandi, præſentiam noſtram ſupplendi,
"locumque noſtrum in dicto Subſequenti Generali Conventu
"tanquam Commiſſionario noſtro in hunc Effectum, ſpeci-
"aliter conſtituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad Imperium &
"munus Commiſſionarii, pro Generali Eccleſiæ Conventu
"peragendi, tam plene, adeoque libere, in quovis reſpectu,
"quam quilibet alius ejuſdem Supremi muneris & Characteris
"fecerat, ſeu quovis tempore retroacto facere poterat; at-
"que ſicuti Nos ipſi perſonaliter præſentes facere poterimus,
"Pleniſſimam & Ampliſſimam noſtram poteſtatem & Com-
"miſſionem. Quæquidem omnia & ſingula, a dicto *Joanne*
"*Domino Carmichael*, in hac noſtra Commiſſione proſe-
"quenda legitime facienda, Nos firmiter Approbamus, Rati
"habemus, & habituri ſumus. Omnibus & Singulis in ſu-
"pradicti conventus & Eccleſiæ Paſtoribus & Presbyteris,
"& cæteris quibuscunque hujus Regni noſtri ſubditis, cujus-
"cunque qualitatis & conditionis, ut dictum *Joannem Domi-*
"*num Carmichael*, tanquam ſupremum noſtrum Commiſ-
"ſionarium quoad Effectum & modum ſupramentionatum
"Agnoſcant, Revereantur, & dicto ipſius audientes ſe præbe-

aur,

"præbeant, ſtricte præcipimus, & imperamus. Ac denique, "hanc *Noſtram* Commiſſionem, a die quo magnum hujus "Regni Noſtri ſigillum præſentibus eſt appenſum, & deinceps "hac Seſſione ſequenti Generalis Conventus antedicti in vigore "continuare declaravimus & per præſentes Declaramus, vel "uſquedum a nobis revocabitur. In cujus rei Teſtimonium, "præſentibus Magnum ſigillum noſtrum appendi præcepi- "mus Apud aulam noſtram de *Kenſington*, quinto die men- "ſis *Januarii*, Anno Domini, Milleſimo Sexenteſimo No- "nogeſimo Octavo, Regnique noſtri Anno nono,

*Per ſignaturam manu* S. D. N. *Regis Supraſignatam.*

{ Locus Sigilli Appenſi }

IN DORSO.

*Written to the great Seal, and Regiſtrat the tenth day of* January 1698. Dun. Ronald *Deput.*

*Sealed at* Edinburgh, *the tenth day of* January 1698. A, Home.

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II.

# His *MAJESTIES* gracious LETTER TO The *GENERAL ASSEMBLY:*

Eadem *Seſſione.*

THE ſaid Day, His *MAJESTIE'S* High COMMISSIONER produced His *Maieſtie's* Moſt Gracious LETTER, Directed to this *Aſſembly*, Which was publickly Read in their Hearing with all due Honour and Reſpect, and appointed to be Recorded in the Regiſters of this *Aſſembly*, The Tenor whereof followes.

WILLIAM R.

*Right Reverend, and Well Beloved,*

WEE Greet you Well. We are ſo well ſatisfied, with your Proceedings, at the laſt *General Aſſembly* that We agree to your Meeting now, though an other time had been more Convenient for Our Affairs. And we have again made choice, of Our Right Truſtie, and Entirely Beloved Councellour *John* Lord *Carmichael*, to be Our Commiſſioner, of whoſe Fidelity, and Zeal for Out Service, We have had experience, on former Occaſions, and who, We know, will be acceptable to you: And we doubt not but you will Act in ſuch a manner in this *Aſſembly*, as that We ſhall have new Reaſon to be ſatisfied with you. And We do renew Our Aſſurances of Our Protection, and Countenance to the *Preſbyterian Goverument*, now Settled in the Church of *Scotland*.

You know it is Our Inclinations, and We do Recommend to you, to Aſſume the *Epiſcopal Miniſters* whoſe Lives, and Doctrine, do render them uſeful to the Church: and likewayes the Planting the Churches in the *North*, with the moſt Prudent and Pious of your Miniſters: And that you ſend ſome of your number, who are beſt Qualified, To Preach in the remote Highland Pariſhes, where Miniſters are not provided, and where there appears to be ſo much need of a Reformation, both from *Popery*, and *Prophanity*. In all which, We expect to hear of your Care and Performance, and ſo We bid you Heartily farewell;

*Given at Our Court* at Kenſington, *the fifth Day of* January 169⅞. and of Our Reign the ninth year.

*By His Majeſtie's* Command.

Tullibardine.

*To the Right Reverend, and Well Beloved, The Miniſters, and Elders, Commiſſioners of the General Aſſemebly of the Church of Our Ancient Kingdome of* Scotland.

III.

III.

## *The General Assemblies Answer,*

TO

# His *Majesties* Gracious Letter

Edinburgh, 13. January 1698. Sess. 3.

*May it please Your Majesty,*

THE Satisfaction Your Majesty Vouchsafes to signifie by Your most Gracious Letter to this Assembly, with the proceedings of the former; Your Majesties renewed Assurances of Your Protection, and Countenance to the *Presbyterian Government*, now settled in this Church, and Your having agreed to our Meeting at this time, when so many other weighty Affairs call forth and employ your Royal Care, Do lay such Obligations on Us to Our Duty, as We shall endeavour better to express our Sense thereof, in the Course of our Actings, then now We are able to do by Words.

Nor is it One of the least Testimonies of Your *Majesties* Fatherly Regard to this Church, That as you have formerly Recommended, and encouraged the suppressing and restraining of all Vice and Prophanity, So Your Majesty doth now testify a special Concern, for planting a well qualified Ministry in those Places that want it, and that You are pleased to excite Us to a cheerful Management of all the Matters that lye before us, by the continued Choice of the Lord *Carmichael*, to represent Your Royal PERSON now again in this Assembly, whose unblemished Faithfulness, and steddy Zeal to Your Majesties Service, joined with a constant good Affection to this Church, have always very signally, and to us most obligeingly appeared.

The General Assembly is still ready to assume such Ministers as served under the late *Prelacy*, whose Lives and Doctrines render them useful in the Church, and who apply to them in the Terms and Methods proposed by former Assemblies

Aſſemblies, and ſhall recommend the ſame to Inferiour Judicatories.

In the planting of the *North*, ſuch Progreſs as could be attained, hath been made ſince the laſt Aſſembly; and to proceed in this Good Work, and provide for the remote *Highland* Pariſhes, We reckon an important part of Our preſent Duty, and do reſolve to apply Our ſelves thereto, with that Diligence, and ſo to demain Our ſelves therein, and in Our whole Conduct, through Divine Aſſiſtance, that We truſt this Aſſembly ſhall not prove unworthy of the Continuance of Your Majeſties Favourable Opinion of Us.

That the Great GOD, by whom Kings Reign, may dayly multiplie his beſt Bleſſings, upon Your Royal Perſon and Government, is, and ſhall be, the moſt ſincerely affectionate and fervent Prayer of,

*May it pleaſe Your* MAJESTY,

Your *MAJESTIE'S* moſt Faithful,
Moſt Obedient, and moſt Humble Subjects,

*The Miniſters and Elders, mett in this National Aſſembly of the Church of* Scotland.

*Signed in Our Preſence, in Our Name, and at Our Appointment,*

By

Geo. Meldrum *Moderator.*

IV.

IV.

# To His Most Excellent *Majestie*,

The Humble ADDRESS, of the National *Assembly*, of the Church of *Scotland*,

Eadem Sessione.

*May it Please Your Majestie.*

AS the Commissioners of the former Assembly, under a Just Sense of duty, did Address Your *Majestie*, upon Your happy Auspicious Arrival to these Your Kingdomes, so We the present Representatives of this National Church, do now for Our selves, and in Name of that Church, which We Represent, with most humble Adorations, and thankful Praises to Our good God, Acknowledge His Inestimable Mercy to us, in sending Your *Majestie* to be Our Deliverer and Restorer, (a Blessing never to be forgotten by us, nor Our Posterity) in Conducting and Preserving Your *Majestie*, through the long Tract of a most Just and Necessary, but most Hazardous War, (undertaken to assert and Vindicat the Oppressed Liberties of Christendom) whilest you were Exposed to the most open and formidable Dangers, in keeping You safe, in the hydings of His owu Power, and in returning You to Your Loving and longing People, Adorned with the best of Triumphs, (the Effect of Your deep Wisdom as well as of Your Matchless Valour) a Solid and Honourable Peace.

No Expressions can reach the fullness of Our loyal Hearts, upon this great Occasion, nor that sincere Joy that is raised in us, by the hopes of Your *Majesties* applying Your selt with Christian Princely Vigour, to maintain that Holy Religion (given us by the God who hath called, upheld and Established You) to crub the Enormities of a Debaucht and Profligate Age, and to quell the monsters of Prophanity and Atheism, that have dared so boldly to bid defyance to Heaven, and all that is Sacred. From these doth arise Our greatest danger, lest Wrath be upon us from the God of Heaven; In subdueing these, a yet higher pitch of Courage, steddy Resolution, and true Greatness of mind is required, than in overcoming the greatest Armies, in the field of Battel. This Noble Atchievment, seems to be Reserved for Your *Majesty*, as the peculiar glory of Your now

peaceful Reign, both by Your Authority, and Royal Example to render Piety and Vertue in the eyes of the World ( as indeed they are in themselves ) the true point of Honour, and all impiety and Vice ( tho in Persons of most elevated Quality and Station ) matter of Infamy and Disgrace, without which no Effectual Reformation of degenerated manners, can ever be expected.

May the Divine Majesty, of whom is the Salvation of Kings, ( who hath done wonders for You and wrought wonders by You, whose great and happy Instrument You are ) long preserve, Richly Blesse and Prosper Your Majesty, and render You no less Illustrious, in all the Arts of Peace, then You have been in these of War; And when He shall have Served His own great and Gracious ends, by You in this World, may You be Translated to Inherite the Glories of that Kingdom of Purity and Peace, that can never be shaken. So We Pray, with the most Fervent Affection of dutiful and sincere Hearts, who are,

*May it please Your* MAJESTY:

*Your* MAJESTIES Most Faithful,
Most Obedient, and Most Humble Subjects

*The Ministers and Elders, met in this National Assembly, of the Church of* Scotland.

*Signed in Our Presence, in Our Name and at Our Appointment.*

By

Geo. Meldrum *Moderator.*

## V.

Edinburgh 15ᵗʰ January 1698. *ante merid.*

Sess. 6.

**Act, and Declaration, for Vindication of the** Church of Scotland, *from the Calumny of* Thomas Gipps, *Rector of* Bury, *in a Sermon Preached by him.*

THE *General Assembly* of this National Church, being Informed, that the Presbyterians ( particularly

eularly these of *Scotland*) are charged in a Sermon preached by *Thomas Gipps* Rector of *Bury* in *England*, now Printed and Published, as Corrupters of the Word of God, with design to support the Peoples Power, in setting up Ministers over themselves, and that this Corruption is made by them, in *Acts* 6. 3. By causeing it be printed, *Whom ye may appoint over this Business;* in stead of *Whom We may appoint*; And therefore the General Assembly, do unanimously Declare, That as they allow no Power in the People, but only in the Pastors of the Church, to appoint or ordain Church-Officers, so they disclaim the abovementioned Error of the Press, if any such be found in any *Bibles* printed in this Nation, and do declare they do not own any other Reading of that Text, to be according to the Original, but *Whom We may appoint, &c.* Nor do they know, nor can learn, that ever any in this Nation, did publickly use, or apply that Text, to prove the Peoples Power in Ordaining their Ministers.

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## VI.

*Act for punctual sending of Commissioners to the General Assemblies; and their Attendance dureing the sitting thereof.*

Edinburgh, 18. January 1698. *post merid.*

Sess. 8.

THE General Assembly, taking to their Consideration, the Overture transmitted by the last Assembly to Presbytries, anent punctual sending of Commissioners to General Assemblies, and their Attendance dureing the sitting thereof; and having heard the Report of the several Commissioners from Presbytries, to whom the Consideration of the same was recommended, in order to its being more ripely advised, and determined in this Assembly: The General Assembly do appoint Presbytries to chuse their Commissioners for the General Assembly, a competent time before the sitting thereof, at least fourty days, and that each General Assembly appoint a Committee of Censures to cognosce upon the dates of Commissions, and the attendance of these Commissioned; To the end, that such Presbytries as do not make their

their Election in due time; As likeways, ſuch Commiſſioners as does not attend duely from the beginning, and through the whole Dyets of the General Aſſembly, and the Committees which they may be put upon, not having a relevant excuſe, may be cenſured as the General Aſſembly ſhall think fit: And laſtly, the General Aſſembly recommends to Presbytries, to chuſe ſuch Ruling Elders to be their Commiſſioners, as may attend; and ſeriouſly to exhort them when choſen, to make Conſcience of attending upon General Aſſemblies; and recommends the punctual Obſervance of *Act* 4 General Aſſembly 1694. anent the giving in Commiſſions, and making up the Rolls the night before the Aſſembly meet, or the next morning, for which purpoſe, the Clerk is to attend in the Aſſembly Houſe, at that time.

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## VII.

### *Act anent the Deficients in ſupplying the* North.

Edinburgh, 21. January 1698. *poſt merid.*

Seſſ. 12.

THE General Aſſembly having enquired, how the *6th* Act of the laſt Aſſembly, anent theſe Miniſters, who had not obeyed the Appointment of the Aſſembly 1696. concerning the Miſſion to the *North*, was obſerved; and Mr. *Joſeph Drew*, Miniſter at *New Monkland*, being heard, his Excuſe for not going (hitherto, I was ſuſtained; But he is appointed to fulfill the time of his Miſſion, conform to the ſaid Act, and if there be any inevitable impediments in his way, Appoints the Presbytrie of *Hamilton* to ſend one in his room, and that the Commiſſion ſee this done: And farder, Referrs to the Commiſſion, to ſee the Presbytrie of *Paſley* fulfill the time of the Miſſion of their two Miniſters, conform to the ſaid Act of the laſt Aſſembly. And laſtly, referrs to the ſaid Commiſſion, to enquire, how the Supplies, appointed by the laſt Aſſembly, were ſent up; And likeways, to ſee that any Supplies that ſhall be appointed by this Aſſembly, be punctually ſent, from the ſeveral Synods, and to cenſure the Deficients.

VIII.

## VIII.

### *Act approving Overtures for Planting of the* North.

Eadem Sessione.

SEing the Mission of the fourty four Ministers, hath so far come short of the designed Transportation, of Actual Ministers from the *South* to the *North*, and the necessity of that Countrey continues, The Assembly declares that Twelve Ministers shall be Transported from the *South*, to some of the following Posts, (Which are either Considerable in themselves, or by reason of their Circumstances, necessarly to be speedily supplyed) now Vacant; Three of the saids Ministers to the Province of *Angus and Mearns*, To any of the Posts following viz. *Montrose*, *Breichen*, *Migle*, *Eliot*, *Longforgan*, *Farnall*, *or Fetteresso*, Six of them, to the Province of *Aberdeen*. To any of these Postes following viz. *New* and *Old* Aberdeen, *Peterhead*, *Foverain*, *Raffin*, *Morthlick*, *Boyndy*, *Upperbanchorie*, *Oven* or *Old* Meldrum, and three to the Province of *Murray*, To any of these Posts following viz. *Inverness*, *Elgine*, *Duffus*, or *Keith*.

That in Order to the above end, the Presbytries in the forsaid Provinces, Endeavour to get ordinary Calls; and in case these Parishes abovementioned shall neglect to give the same, the Assembly declares, that Calls by the Presbytrie of the Bounds, to which any of these places belongs, shall be sustained sufficient, the said Presbytrie attesting, that there are probable grounds That the People will submit, to the Ministry of the Minister so Called, when settled among them: And the Person thus Called, is to be loosed and Transported according to the methode proposed By the last Assembly in the Overtures Contained Act 16: Only where it is granted by the Last Assembly, That such Calls should be pursued by the Kirk-Agent or his Deputs, This Assembly allowes also a Commission from the Parish or Presbytrie Calling, To be sufficient to any other person what soever, To pursue the said Transportation, And the *General Assembly* does seriously Recommend it to the Ministers of the *North*, To use all Tenderness and Caution, as to the Seats of *Universities*, The Actual Residences of *Noblemen*, and Principal *Royal Burghs*: and that, before they proceed to Moderate a Call, to

any of these Twelve Ministers, thus to be Transported, they consult, with some of the most Prudent and Experienced men, in the same Synod to which the Minister Called Belongs. And on the other hand, the Assembly seriously Recommends to these Presbytries, Synods and Commission, who shall have occasion to Judge in any of these Transportations, That they consider the Clamant Condition of the *North*, And that in Effect the competition, betwixt the Parishes called from and called to, be not reckoned; But between the parish called from and the necessitous condition of the *North*: And that they consider the many disappointments the *North* hath met with already.

4. The Assembly furder declares, That these *Twelve Ministers*, thus to be Transported, are to be taken out of the *Synods* aftermentioned viz. *five of them out of the Synod of Glasgow and Aire*; *four* of them *out of the Synod of Louthian and Tweddale*, *two* of them out of the Synod of *Merse* and *Teviotdale*, and *one* of them out of the *two Eastern Presbytries of* the Synod of *Fyffe* viz. the Presbytries *of Coupar* and *St. Andrews*.

5. That the Assembly Nominate *Twenty Probationers* to go immediatly to the *North*, and these Probationers born in the *North*, to be named in the first place; And to help to Defray the Charges of their Journey thither, that they be allowed each of them *ane hundred Merks* out of the Kings Gift, for defraying the publict Expences of the Church; Beside the allowance given by Act of Parliament to Preachers in Vacant Congregations, and to these who goe to *Orknay Two hundred Merks*. And that five of these be sent, to supply the Vacancies of the Synod of *Aberdeen*, *four* of them to supply the Vacancies of the Synod of *Angus and Mernes*, *four* of them, to supply the Vacancies of *Murray*, *two* of them to supply *Ross*, *Southerland and Caithness*; and *Two to Orknay*, *and three* of them to supply *Perth*, *Auchterarder*, and *Dunkeld* Vacancies, and all of them to continue in the *North* for a Twelvemoneth. And its hereby Refer'd to the Commission, to be appointed by this Assembly, to consider and determine, what Probationers are to goe to these Respective provinces abovementioned, together with the time of their stay and abode in each Province. Which Twenty Probationers, are hereby obliedged to accept of Calls, whether Popular, or Presbyterial, when presented to them by the Presbytries of any of the saids Provinces, With certification if they refuse the same, The Presbytries, within whose Boundsthey are Called, shall have power to take their Licence from them, until the next Assembly.

6. This Assembly doth hereby continue the former supplyes

plys of the *North*, by the Synods of the *South*, Granted by the fourteinth Act of the last Assembly, Defaulking only three *Ministers* of the eighteen formerly allowed, five of which are to supply *Aberdeen* Province, four to supply *Murray*, three to supply *Angus*, and *Mernes*, one to supply *Ross*, *Sutherland*, and *Caithness*; and two to supply *Perth*, *Auchterarder*, and *Dunkeld*: Unto which supply the Synods expreſt in the foresaid Act, are lyable in the way and manner thereinexpreſt. And becauſe there are three of the number taken doun, the Synods of *Dumfreis* and *Galloway*, with the Presbytries of *Stirling*, and *Dumblain*, are Exempted from the said supply.

7. It is Overtur'd, that a numerous *Commission*, be appointed By this Assembly, with power to them, to divide themselves, into as many *Committees* as they shall see fit; and to send them to any Parts of this Church *South*, or *North*; Which Commission is to meet Quarterly, and when or where they shall see cause, And that all the members thereof, shall give punctual attendance, at the said Quarterly meetings, and an exact account to be taken of the absents therefrom.

8. That it be Recomended to some to name and draw up a list of the members of the said Commission, and to draw up Instructions to be given unto them.

That the saids Commitees to be appointed by the General Commission have power to visite the bounds they are sent unto, and to receive Complaints from Presbytries, and redress Greivances of particular Ministers or Presbytries, and to inflict Censures, and to do every other thing, Competent to Visitations; The Presbytrie of the bounds, where the said Committee shall come, being alwayes to be Reckoned members thereof, while within their Bounds.

The General Assembly approves of the Overtures above-writen.

## IX.

*Act anent the Printed Overtures, concerning the Discipline, and Method of Proceeding in Ecclesiastick Judicatories, offered to the last Assembly, by a private Hand.*

Eadem Sessione.

THE General Assembly having heard and considered the Opinion, of the Commission of the last Assembly dated

dated the *5th.* day of *Ianuarij inſtant*, anent the Overtures concerning Church-Diſcipline, and the method of proceeding in Eccleſiaſtick Judicatories; As alſo having heard the Report of a Committee of this Aſſemblies own Number, appointed to conſider the ſame, The General Aſſembly thinks fit to appoint, and hereby appoints, Mr. *Gilbert Rule* Principal of the Colledge of *Edinburgh*, Mr. *William Dunlop* Principal of the Colledge of *Glaſgow*, Mr. *Robert Wylie* Miniſter at *Hamilton*, Mr *George Meldrum*, and Mr. *William Crichton* at *Edinburgh*, Mr. *John Vetch*, Mr. *Andrew Cameron*, and Mr. *George Barcley* Miniſters; Sir *James Steuart* His Majeſties Advocat, *Adam Cockburn* of *Ormiſtoun* Lord Juſtice Clerk, and Sir *Colin Campbel* of *Aberuchle* One of the Senators of the Colledge of Juſtice Ruling Elders, to be a Committee for conſidering the ſaids Overtures, and the Animadverſions made thereupon, and compare them with the *Word of God, Books of Diſcipline, and Acts of the General Aſſemblies of this Church*, and to conſider what is wanting, or to be added thereto, or altered therein, and to ſet out a new Edition of the ſaid Overtures, that the ſeveral Presbytries may have opportunity to animadvert thereon, and appoints them to ſend their Judgement thereanent to the Commiſſion of this Aſſembly, who are to prepare the ſame againſt the next General Aſſembly.

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X.to

*Approbation of the Actings and Proceedings of the Commiſſion, appointed by the late General Aſſembly.*

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly, having this day had reproduced in their preſence, the Regiſter of the Actings and Proceedings of the Commiſſioners appointed by the laſt Aſſembly, and having heard a Report of a Committee of their own Number, appointed to Reviſe, conſider and examine the ſame, with their Obſerves thereupon, all the Members of the ſaid Commiſſion were removed, and the General Aſſembly having ſeriouſly conſidered the ſaid Report, and Anſwers made by the Members of the Commiſſion to the ſaids Obſerves, and finding thereby that the whole Actings, Proceedings, and Concluſions of the ſaids Commiſſioners,

missioners, contained in the Register thereof, subscribed by Mr. *John Moncrief* Clerk thereto, consisting of One Hundred and sixty eight Pages; Do evidence much Wisdom, Prudence and Diligence; and that the said Commission have proceeded orderly and formally in every thing, according to their Commission and Instructions, and that the said Register is very accurate: Therefore this General Assembly, by an unanimous vote, Did, and hereby Do, Ratify and Approve the saids whole Actings, Proceedings and Conclusions, of the saids Commissioners, contained in the said Register thereof, beginning the 13. day of *January* 1697. and ending the 5. day of *January* instant, inclusive of both dayes.

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## XI.

### *Recommendation anent Subscribing of Synod Records.*

Edinburgh, 22. January 1698.

Sess. 13.

THE General Assembly Recommends to all Synods, for hereafter, to take care, that their Registers be compleatly filled up, always before the sitting of the General Assembly; And that the Proceedings of every Synod be signed both by the Moderator and Clerk thereof: And lastly, appoints the Synod Books, thus filled up, and subscribed, to be timeously produced to the General Assemblies yearly, in order to their being revised.

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## XII.

### *Commission, To some Ministers and Elders for Planting Vacant Churches in the* North, *and some other Particular Affairs committed to them, by the General Assembly.*

Edinburgh, 24. January 1698. *ante merid.*

Sess. 14:

THE General Assembly of this National Church, considering, that there are yet many Vacant Churches

on the *North* ſide of *Tay;* As Likeways, That there are ſeveral weighty Affairs, which this Aſſembly cannot now overtake: Therefore the General Aſſembly Finds it needful, That there be a Commiſſion granted to ſome Miniſters and Elders, for planting theſe Vacant Kirks, and doing what other Affairs ſhall be referred to them; And for that End, Do hereby Nominate and Appoint Mr. *Andrew Cameron* Miniſter of the Goſpel at *Kirkcudbright*, Mr. *Andrew Ewart* at *Kells*, Mr. *Robert Rowan* at *Penningham*, Mr. *Robert Campbel* at Stonikirk, Mr. *John Hunter* at Air, Mr. *James Gilchriſt* at Kirkmichael, Mr. *John Wilſon* at Largs, Mr. *Thomas Kennedy* at Ballantrae, Mr. *Andrew Fauls* at Fenwick, Mr. *Robert Wylie* at Hamilton, Mr. *George Clelland* at Shotts, Mr. *Thomas Linning* at Leſmehego, Mr. *John Scot* at Carluke, Mr. *John Bananlyne* at Lanerk, Mr. *James Brown* at Glaſgow, *Mr. William Dunlop* Principal of the Colledge of Glaſgow, Mr. *Andrew Tait* at Carmunock, Mr. *Patrick Simſon* at Renfrew, Mr. *Thomas Blackwell* at Paiſley, Mr. *Robert Wallace* at Berrernock, Mr. *George Park* at Kilerne, Mr. *Walter Campbel* at Denoon, Mr. *Daniel Campel* at Kilmichael, Mr. *Samuel Nairn* at Errol, Mr. *Thomas Black* at Perth, Mr. *William Moncrieff* at Methven, Mr. *John Tilidaff* at Dumbarnie, Mr. *William Spence* at Foſſoway, Mr. *William* Reid at Dunning, Mr. *William Chambers* at Moonzie, Mr. *Michael Potter* at Dumblain, Mr. *Alexander Douglaſs* at Logie, Mr. *George Turnbul* at Alloway, Mr. *John Forreſter* at Stirling, Mr. *William Dick* at Forgan, Mr. *Alexander Shiels* at St Andrews, Mr. *William Moncrieff* at Largo, Mr. *John Anderſon* Principal of the Leonardine Colledge, Mr. *James Haddo* at Couper, Mr. *Archibald* Riddel at *Kirkaldie*, Mr. *William Mackie* at Markinſh Mr. *Samuel Charters* at Innerkeithing, Mr. *Allan Logan* at Torryburn, Mr. *John Spalding* at Dundee, Mr. *William Mitchel* there, Mr. *William Arrot* at Montroſs, Mr. *James Osburn* at Aberdeen, Mr. *Thomas Ramſay* there, Mr. *George Anderſon* at Tarves, Mr, *Patrick Innes* at Bamff, Mr. *Thomas Thomſon* at Turreff, Mr. *Alexander Forbes* at Dyke, Mr. *James Thomſon* at Elgin, Mr. *Hugh Anderſon* at Cromarty, Mr. *William Innes* at Thurſo, Mr *John Forreſt* at Preſtonkirk, Mr. *David Clunie* at Cockburnſpath, Mr. *John Sandilands* at Dolphington, Mr. *Robert Horsburgh* at Glenwhom, Mr. *James Anderſon* at Lintown, *Mr. Andrew Mitchel* at Mannour, Mr. *Patrick Cumming* at Ormiſton, Mr. *David Walker* at Temple, Mr. *Matthew Selkirk* at Crichton, Mr. *John Shaw* at Newton, Mr. *John Brand* at Borrowſtonneſs,

rowstonneſs, Mr. *John Kinaird* at East-calder, Mr. *George Barclay* at Uphall, Mr. *William Burnet* at Falkirk, Mr. *Gilbert Rule* Principal of the Colledge of Edinburgh, Mr. *George Meldrum* at Edinburgh, Mr. *William Crichton* there, Mr. *James Kirkton* there, Mr. *John Law* there, Mr. *George Hamilton* there, Mr. *John Moncrieff* there. Mr. *David Blair* there, Mr. *James Webster* there, Mr. *David Williamson* at the *West-kirk*, Mr. *Thomas Wilkie* at *Canongate*, Mr. *George Andrews* at Prestonpans, Mr. *Mungo Watson* at Gladsmoor, Mr. *Alexander Colden* at Dunce, Mr. *James Ramsay* at Eymouth, Mr. *John Simson* at Morbattle, Mr. *John Vetch* at Westruther, Mr. *John Hardie* at Gordon, Mr. *Gabriel Semple* at Jedburgh, Mr. *George Guthrie* at Oxnam, Mr. *James Noble* at Ecfoord, Mr. *Hugh Craig* at Gallashiels, Mr. *Charles Gordon* at Ashkirk, Mr. *William Vetch* at Dumfreis, Mr. *John Paisly* at Morton, Mr. *Thomas Schiels* at Sanquhar. Mr. *George Muligin* at Moffat, Mr. *James Armstrang* at Cannabee, Ministers. *George* Earl of *Melvill* President of the Council, *William* Earl of Craufurd, *George* Earl of Southerland, *William* Lord Ross, *Robert* Lord Burleigh, *John* Lord Bellhaven, *John* Lord Carmichael. *Sir James Stewart* His Majesties Advocat, *Adam Cockburn* of Ormiston Lord Justice Clerk, Sir *Alexander Swinton* of Mersington, Sir *Colin Campbel* of Aberuchel, Sir *David Hume* of Crosrig, Sir *John Hamilton* of Halcraig Four of the Senators of the Colledge of Justice, Mr. *Francis Montgomery* of Giffen, Mr. *Hugh Dalrymple* of Northberwick, Lieutenent Collonel *John Erskine* of Caridden Governour of the Castle of Stirling, Sir *George Campbel* of Cesnock, The Laird of *Grant*, The Laird of *Lamington*, The Laird of *Brodie*, Sir *Adam Gordon* of Dalpholly, Sir *Colin Campbel* of Arkindlays, The Laird of *Colloden*, Sir *John Clerk* of Pennycook, Sir *Thomas Burnet* His Majesties Physician, Sir *William Denholm* of Westshiels, Sir *Archibald Mure* of Thorntoun Lord Provost of *Edinburgh*, The Laird of *Meggins*, The Laird of *Torwoodlie*, The Laird of *Fulerton*, The Laird of *Humbie*, The Laird of *Eicht*, Mr. *Matthew Moncrieff* of Colforgie, Mr. *James Craigie* of Dumbarnie, Captain *James Coult*, *Hugh Blair* late Dean of Gild of *Edinburgh*, *John Anderson* of Dowhill, and *John Alardes* Baillie in *Aberdeen*. Ruling Elders: To be Commissioners of the General Assembly, to the Effect aftermentioned, With full Power and Commission to the saids Persons, or their *Quorum*, Which is hereby Declared to be any Fifteen of the saids Commissioners, Whereof Nine are always to be Ministers, to meet and conveen within the Assembly House at *Edinburgh*

*Edinburgh*, the first day after the Dissolution of this Assembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and afterward to meet the first *Wednesdays* of *March*, *June*, *September*, and *December*, and oftner, where, or when they shall see needful, during the continuance of this Commission; And the General Assembly requires all the Members of this Commission, to attend punctually the Meetings thereof, With Power to the said Commission, to chuse their own Moderator, and Clerk: And Siclike, The General Assembly fully Empowers and authorizes the saids Commissioners, or their *Quorum*, to consider, cognosce, and finally Determine as they shall see cause, in every thing, contained in, and conform to the Instructions given unto them by this Assembly, as fully and freely, as if the samen were in these presents at full length insert, and set down: As also, to Consider, Cognosce and finally Determine, in all References, Appeals and other Matters particularly Remitted to them, by any Act or Order of this Assembly; all which are holden as herein expreſt: And the General Assembly do hereby Prohibite and Discharge the saids Commissioners to meddle in any other matter, than what is contained herein, Declaring also, That in and for their Actings, they shall be comptable to, and censurable by the next ensueing General Assembly of this Church. And lastly, Declares, That this Commission shall endure until the meeting of the next General Assembly.

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## XIII.

### *Instructions to the Commission appointed by this Assembly, for Planting of the Vacant Churches in the* North, *&c.*

Eadem Sessione.

1. THat this Commission do what in them lyes, to render Effectual the Overtures past in this Assembly, for more speedy Planting of the *North*, and Exerce all the Power that is committed to them for that end.

2. That this Commission, as often as they shall see cause, apply to the Government, or any Magistrate, for their Countenancing of, and Concurrance with the Judicatories of the Church, in what the Law allows; Particularly for settleing Vacant Congregations, and Redressing any Grievances which may fall out,

3. That

3. That when any of the Ministers, who served under the late Prelacy, whose Lives and Doctrines may render them useful to this Church, Do apply for reception unto the Government, the General Assembly, in prosecution of the Assurances given to his *Majesty*, in their Letter Writen to him, Do Empower and recommend to this Commission, and the other Judicatories of this Church, That they be ready to receive them, according to the 13. Paragraph of the 16. Act of the last General Assembly.

4. That this Commission, in disposal of His *Majesties* Gifts to this Church, do particularly take care, That the Encouragement granted by this Assembly to the Probationers who are to go to the *North* to Preach, be rendered effectual; And that they cause defray the extraordinary Charges, that several Ministers of the *North* have been at, in carrying on the planting of the *North*, and other Publick Affairs of the Church there; And for the defraying the Charges of such Ministers, or Probationers, as shall yet be sent to *Orkney*, or other remote Places of the *North*.

5. That if the Commission shall see Cause to appoint Committees, upon occasion, for Visitation of particular Kirks and Presbytries, or Tryal of Persons, then the said Committees, as to Tryals, may proceed *usque ad Sententiam* but no farder; But that in that case, they report their Procedure to the Commission, who are to pass Sentence, as they shall see cause.

6. This Commission may likeways, on the desire of any Presbytrie, or Synod, send Committees, for assisting them in Visitation of Kirks within their Bounds, which Committees may be assisting to the saids Presbytries or Synods, either in Processes and Censures, if need be; or in Redressing the Grievances of particular Ministers or Parishes within their Bounds

7. The Commission are to Cognosce, and finally Determine in all References made to them by this Assembly, and in all Appeals for Transporting Ministers to the *North*, which shall be orderly brought unto them, according to the Overtures thereanent, past in this Assembly.

8. This Commission is also to correspond with the State anent Fasts, and Thanksgivings, as occasion requires, and to specify the Causes thereof.

9. The Commission is to give Advice and Assistance to any Synod or Presbytrie in difficult cases, as they shall be applyed unto, by them for that Effect.

## XIV

*Act appointing ſome Miniſters to go for the ſupply of the* North, *until the next Aſſembly.*

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly of this National Church, taking unto their conſideration that there are yet many Vacancies in the *North*, and that the Miniſters which are ſettled there, are not in a condition to ſupply the ſame, in a ſutable manner, Therefore they have ordained and hereby ordaines, that the Synods be *South Tay* afternamed, ſhall ſend to the Bounds of the Synods of *Angus and* Mernes, *Aberdeen*, Murray, *Roſs*, *Southerland*, *and* Caithneß, and the Presbytries of *Perth*, *Auchterarder and Dunkeld* within the Synod of *Perth* The number of *Fifteen Miniſters every four Moneths*. according to the proportions aftermentioned viz. That *two* be ſent to ſupply the Vacancies of *Perth* *Auchterarder* and *Dunkeld*, *three* to ſupply the Vacancies of the Synod of *Angus and* Mearns, *five* to ſupply the Vacancies of the Synod of *Aberdeen*, four to ſupply the Vacancies of the Synod of *Murray*, and one to ſupply the Vacancies of the Synods of *Roſs*, *Southerland and* Caithneß: And the Aſſembly declares that theſe above ſupply's of fifteen Miniſters be ſent every four Moneths by the Synods aftermentioned, according to the following Proportions, viz. That from the Synod of *Merſe and Teviotdale*, there be ſent *three*, each four Moneths, and that to the Synod of *Angus and Mearns*; The Synod of *Lothian*, ſhall ſend *four*, *two* of them to *Aberdeen*, and *two* of them to *Murray*, as the ſaid Synod of *Lothian* ſhall determine, That the Synod of *Glaſgow* and *Air* ſhall ſend *five*, viz. one to *Perth*, *Auchterarder and* Dunkeld, *three to* Aberdeen, *and one to* Murray; That the Synod of *Fyfe* ſhall ſend *three*, one to *Perth*, *one to* Murray, *and one to* Caithneß, *Roß and Southerland*, as the ſaid Synod of *Fyfe* ſhall determine. And further, becauſe it is neceſſary that the ſaids ſupplys, who ſhal go for the firſt four Moneths, ſhall be there ſo ner then the next ordinarly meeting of Synods therefore the Aſſembly appoints the Presbytries afternamed to ſend a Miniſter to the bounds of the Synods aftermentioned to ſupply the Vacancies there, and that ſuch as ſhall be by them appointed be there, againſt the firſt Sabbath of *March* next viz.

the Presbytries of *Chirusde*, *Jedburgh and Selkrig*, within the Synod of *Merse and Teviotdale* to send each of them one to supply the Vacancies in the Bounds of the Synod of *Angus and Mearns*, That these five nominate already by the Synod of *Glasgow* to go in *March*, do go to their Respective Posts and that these appointed by the Synod of *Lothian and Tweeddal* to go in *March* do go to their Respective Posts appointed them, and lastly from the Synod of *Fyffe* the Presbytrie of *Coupar* to send one to *Ross*, *Southerland*, *and Caithness*; the Presbytrie of *Dumfermling*, *and Kircaldy* to send one to *Murray*, the Presbytrie of *St*, *Andrews* to *Perth*, *Auchterarder*, *and Dunkeld*: But in case that any of the saids Synods, have already appointed their supply's according to the Act of the last Assembly, and if in obedience thereunto any Presbytrie have already nominat the Persons who are to go, then and in that case, the Assembly doth hereby Homologate and Ratifie the saids appointments and Nominations, and hereby ordains all such, as either are already appointed or shall be hereafter appointed By Synods or Presbytries for this or the Succeeding four Moneths supply, that they repair to the Respective Bounds as above: set down against their Respective times allotted unto them, and be directed by the Presbytrie and Ministers of the Respective Synods, they repair to, as to what particular Congregations, they shall apply themselves unto, and that for the space of four Moneths abovementioned viz. from *March* to *July* next; And the Assembly doth farder ordain, the abovewriten Synods in the *South* to send to the places and in the manner abovementioned a new supply of as many Ministers more, to continue from the first of *July next*, *till the first of November* following, and so forth ay and while the sitting of the next General Assembly; and the Respective Presbytries are to take care, that their Kirks be supplyed, according to the fourteenth Act of the last General Aslembly. And lastly the Assembly ordains these Ministers, sent in supply to the *North*, to Catechise and do all appointed By the former Acts of Assembly under the Certifications contained in the saids Acts, and that they get and produce to their own Presbytrie, a Testimonial from the Presbytrie, within the Bounds where they did supply, of their having fulfilled their appointment, and of their Cariage and behaviour, during their abode in these Bounds, and the Assembly also declares, that these, named By the Synods or Presbytries in this supply who may be upon the Commission, this shall be no excuse for them, to elude the said appointments,

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## XV.

### *Overtures againſt Prophaneſs*

Edinburgh the 24. of January 1698. *poſt meridiem*

Seſſio 15. & ultima.

THE General Aſſembly, conſidering the Lamentable Grouth of Prophanity, Ignorance and Irreligion, that is too manifeſt in this Land, and the woeful Decay of the Life and Power of Godlineſs, with the ſmall ſucceſs of the Goſpel, that's to be obſerved every where, at this time, the General Aſſembly, in a deep ſenſe of theſe things, And for the Remeeding of them, do in the Firſt place, In the aw, and dread of God, Beſeech, Exhort and Require, all Miniſters, by the Coming of our Lord *Jeſus Chriſt*, and our gathering together unto him, That they take heed to themſelves, aud to their Doctrine, and endeavour to be Enſamples to the People, in all Piety, Purity, and Holineſs, in all manner of Converſation.

2. That they be Frequent and Fervent in Secret prayer, for themſelves, and the People committed to them, Joining ſometime Faſting with prayer, and the General Aſſembly Recommends to Miniſters and Elders in their ſeveral Pariſhes, and Miniſters in their ſeveral Presbytries, to meet ſometimes together. in their Pariſhes, and Presbytries Reſpective, for private Faſting and Prayer and Conference anent the ſtate of the Church, and that part of it, in which they have ſpecial intereſt; with Reſpect to the grouth or decay of Godlineſs and ſucceſs of the Goſpel therein,

3. That Presbytries be more accurate in manadging their privy Cenſures, and that a day be ſet apart to that purpoſe only, and ſpent in Faſting and Prayer together.

4. That Presbytries be very Cautious, in admitting Intrants to the Miniſtry, and be accurate and exact in the Tryal, not only of their Literature, but of their Piety, Prudence, and former Godly Converſation, and Walk,

5. That Miniſters be painful in Catechiſing, frequent in Viſiting of Families, and in privat Perſonal Conference with theſe of their Charge, about the State of their Souls, and that Miniſters be more frequent in adminiſtration of the Lords Supper, and always Edifying in their Converſe, and Diſcourſe, and that they deal with Heads of Families to engadge

com to Piety, and a care to Reform their Families, and to set up and to keep up the Worship of God therein; And in particular, that Ministers endeavour by all Prudent and gaining Gospel-methods, to engage Persons of Honour and Power, to fall in love with Holiness, and reckon it, as indeed it is, their greatest Honour; And that in dealing with such of them, as are vitious, an Humble and yet Holy *B*oldness and Zeal, be used in admonishing them, in order to their Recovery: And that herein Presbytries appoint some others of their number, to Concur with the Minister of the Place, as may be most for Edification.

6. The General Assembly Recommends, to ~~Kirk~~ Sessions and Presbytries, the Vigorous, Impartial, and yet Prudent Exercise of Church-Discipline, against all Immorality, Especially Drunkenness, and Filthyness, Cursing and Swearing, and Prophaning the Lords day, which too much abound: And that they apply to the Magistrat, for the Execution of the Good Laws, made against Immorality and Prophaness.

7. For the more Useful, Edifying and Effectual Exercise of Church Discipline, The General Assembly Recommends to the Commission appointed by them, to consider the Printed Overtures of Church-Discipline, anent Censureing of Scandals, with the observations of Presbytries thereupon, and the Overtures given in at this Assembly anent publict Rebukes, and the Sentence of lesser Excommunication, the way of dealing both with the Obstinate and Penitent, and anent the Scandalous Neglect of Parents in vertuos Education of their Children, and the Debauchery of Youth at Schools: And to digest and prepare Overtures thereanent, to be printed and Transmitted to Presbytries, together with the Acts of this General Assembly. And its Recommended to the several Presbytries, to send in their Judgement and opinion thereanent to the Commission, that these Overtures may be ripened and prepared for the next General Assembly, if they think fit to pass them into Act.

8. That seing it is observed, that in Burghs, especially these of greatest Resort, as *Edinburgh*, many sit too late in Tavernes, especially on the Saturdayes night, and men of Business, pretend they do it, for Relaxation of their minds; through which some neglect the publict Worship on the Lords day, in the forenoon; Others attend the Worship drousiely: Therefore the General Assembly Recommends to all Ministers, where such sinful customs are, to represent to the People, both publictly and privatly the Sin and Evil thereof, and to call them to redeem that time which they have free

from Buſieneſs; and to employ it for Converſe with God, about their Souls ſtate, and in preparation for the Sabbath, which will yeild more delight, then all Senſual pleaſures can do.

And the General *Aſſembly* Beſeecheth, and Exhorteth all Magiſtrats of Burghs, to be aſſiſtant to Miniſters in enquiring unto, and Reforming ſuch abuſes.

*The General Aſſembly approves of theſe Overtures, and ſeriouſly Recomends them to the ſeveral Presbytries.*

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## XVI.

### *Overtures againſt Popery.*

### Eadem Seſſione.

1. THat Miniſters ſtudy theſe Controverſies more.

2. That all due Endeavours be uſed, to unite Proteſtants among themſelves, ſeing the Adverſaries get advantage by our Diviſion.

3. That Miniſters endeavour faithfully to watch the Flock committed to them, and by publick Preaching, and private Inſtruction and Conference, to prevent Apoſtacy, that way.

4. That Miniſters deal wiſely, and convincingly with the Conſciences of theſe that have fallen to Popery, and other corrupt Principles, for their Recovery.

5. That, when other Means are ineffectual, Presbytries would proceed to Church-Cenſures, when they ſee it may be for the Edification of the Church.

6. That, according to the Acts of former General Aſſemblies, and Acts of Parliament, The Names of Popiſh Prieſts, and Jeſuits, and Traffiqueing Papiſts, and of theſe who have ſent their Children to Popiſh Colledges and Countries, be given in to each Provincial Synod, and by them tranſmitted, as Act, *Car. 2. Par. 3. Cap. 6.*

7. That the General Aſſembly apply to the Privy Council, for the vigorous Execution of the Laws againſt Papiſts, particularly Seminary Prieſts, Popiſh School-maſters, Miſtreſſes, Governours, and Pedagogues, and Popiſh Meetings; And for ſeing to the Training up of Popiſh Youth in the Proteſtant Religion; In all which, ſome Inferior Magiſtrates are juſtly complained of, as very defective, And that the

the said Address be presented by such, as the General Assembly shall appoint,

*The General Assembly approves of these Overtures, And seriously Recommends them to the several Presbytries.*

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## XVII.

### *Overtures for Planting the Highlands.*

Eadem Sessione.

1. THat Ministers and Probationers, who have the *Irish* Language, be sent to the Highland Parishes, and that none of them be settled in the Low Countrey, till the Highland Places be first provided.

2. That *Ministers* and Ruling Elders, who have the *Irish* Language, be appointed to visite these Parts.

3. That where in any Highland Congregation, many understand *English*, and there used once a Day to be a Sermon in *English*, Presbytries be careful to supply them sometimes by preaching in *English*; And that they Catechise them who understand not, by an Interpreter, when they cannot get one to preach to them in *Irish*: And that these, whether Ministers or Probationers, who have somewhat of the *Irish* Language, but not a facility to preach in it, be sent to these Places, for the Ends foresaid; that by Converse they may Learn more of the Language, and ability to Instruct therein.

4 That *English* School-masters be erected, in all Highland Parishes, according to former Acts of Parliament and General Assemblies; And for this End, the General Assembly Recommends to their Commission, to address the King and Parliament, to take such Course, for this, and other Pious Uses, in the more *Northern* Highland Places, as is granted to those of *Argyle*, and that as they shall think fit.

5. That it be recommended to Presbytries and Universities, to have a Special Regard in the Disposal of their Bursaries, for Educating such, as it is hoped, may be useful to preach the Gospel in the Highlands; And that the Commission Address the Lords of the Thesaury, and recommend the same

ſame to the Town-Council of *Edinburgh*, and other Patrons for this End.

*The General Aſſembly Approves of theſe Overtures abovewriten, And recommend and appoints conform thereto.*

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## XVIII.

### *Overtures anent Proclamation of Banns.*

Eadem Seſſione.

THE General Aſſembly, being informed that ſeveral Abuſes have crept in, in the way and manner of proclaiming the Banns of Perſons to be married, Do for preventing of the ſame, Overture and Declare, That before any Proclamations be made, the Names and Deſignations of the Perſons to be married, and their Parents, Tutors or Curators, if they any have, be given up to the Miniſter of the Bounds, in which any of them live and reſide, that thereby it may be known, if their Parents and Friends give conſent thereto; And that the Miniſter, being ſatisfied herein, order the Proclamation to be made three ſeveral Sabbaths; which, when made, ſhall be immediately before Divine Worſhip begin, in the Forenoon, and the Perſons to be Proclaimed, their Names and full Deſignations, ſuch as they are deſigned by, in Writes or Contracts of Marriage, be fully and audibly expreſt; And that where there are more Churches Collegiate, in the Place or Town, the Proclamations be made, in all and every one of the Churches within the City or Town, where they, or any of the Perſons to be married reſide; And this to be atteſted to the Miniſter that marries them; With Certification of the Cenſures of the Church againſt the Tranſgreſſours herein.

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## XIX.

### *Act appointing ſome Probationers to go* North.

Eadem Seſſione.

THE ſaid Day, the General Aſſembly taking to their conſideration their former Act, anent ſending Probationers

ners to the *North*, do Nominat and Appoint these Probationers afternamed, to go to the Provinces and Presbytries aftermentioned, *viz.* Mr. *William Chrystie*, Mr. *Adam Scot*, and Mr. *John Drummond* to the Presbytries of *Perth*, *Auchterardor*, and *Dunkeld*; Mr. *James Murison*, Mr. *Arthur Shepherd*, Mr. *George Weems*, and Mr. *Thomas Beril*, to the Province of *Angus* and *Mernes*; Mr. *Thomas Mitchel*, Mr. *David Anderson* and Mr. *John Warden*, to the Province of *Aberdeen*; Mr. *Andrew Ker*, Mr. *James Woodside*, and Mr. *James Curry*, to the Province of *Murray*; Mr. *John Meeth* to the Provinces of *Ross*, *Southerland* and *Caithness*. And because Mr. *Patrick Melvill*, and Mr. *Archibald Hamilton* were nominate for *Aberdeen*, Mr. *Thomas Frazer* for *Ross-Southerland* and *Caithness*; and Mr. *James Short* for *Orkney*, and that there were some Objections made by them against it. Therefore the General Assembly Refers to their Commission, to consider the saids Objections, and if they shall see Cause, to exeem them, and to name some other Probationers in their rooms, to go to the Provinces abovespecified, conform to the former Acts of this Assembly.

See the Commissions Act hereanent, after the Index of the unprinted Acts.

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## XX.

THE next General Assembly of this National Church, is to be held at *Edinburgh*, upon the Twenty day of *January*, One Thousand Six Hundreth and Ninety Nine Years.

*The Assembly being closed, the Members were dismissed with Prayer, singing of the* 133 *Psalm, and pronouncing of the Blessing.*

*Collected, and Extracted, From the Records of the General Assembly*, By Me,

J. Bannatyne, *Cls. Syn. National.*

# A TABLE Of the Printed Acts of the *General Assembly* 1698.


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3. The General Assemblies Answer to His *Majesty's* most Gracious Letter. 7.
4. The General Assemblies Address to the King. 9.
5. Act and Declaration for Vindication of the Church of *Scotland*, from the Calumny of *Thomas Gipps* Rector of *Bury*, in a Sermon Preached by him. 10.
6. Act for punctual sending of Commissioners to the General Assemblies, and their attendance dureing the sitting thereof. 11.
7. Act anent the Deficients in supplying the *North*. 12.
8. Act approving Overtures for planting of the *North* 13.
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11. Recommendation anent Subscribing of Synod-Books. 17.
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Recommendation to Presbytries, to ſend in to the Agent for the Kirk, a Collection that was made for the Relief of ſome Chriſtians, that were taken Captive by the Turks, and detained Priſoners in *Barbaria*, with a Reference to the Commiſſion thereanent. *Ib.*

Reference to the Commiſſion, anent Mr. *Thomas Frazer*'s Petition. *Ib.*

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Reference to the Commiſſion, concerning the Tranſportation of Mr. *William Inglis* Miniſter, from *Kirk patrick-Durham* to *Kilſpindy*. *Ib.*

A Petition for Mr. *Theodore Umphray*, Mr. *Cornelius Baron*, Mr. *Hugh Leigh*, Mr. *William Umphray*, Mr. *James Kay*, and Mr. *William Binning* Miniſters in *Zetland*, who ſerved under the late Prelacy, now craving to be received unto Miniſterial Communion, and a ſhare of the Government of the Church, being read, and none of the Petitioners being preſent, and they not known to the Aſſembly; Therefore their Petition was Referred to the Commiſſion. *Ib.*

Reference to the Commiſſion, in favours of St. *Andrews* and *Linlithgow*. *Ib.*

Reference to the Commiſſion, concerning the Petition of Mr *Kenneth Mckenzie*. *Ib.*

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Reference to the Commiſſion, to give Advice to Presbytries and Miniſters, upon application againſt Witchcraft, Sorcery, and Charming &c. *Ib.*

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# ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Commiſſion appointed by the late General Aſſembly, having conſidered the Objections, made by ſome Probationers, Nominate to the General Aſſembly, againſt their going *North*, Do, conform to the Power given them, Nominate and Appoint, theſe Probationers aforenamed, to repair to the reſpective Provinces following; *viz.* Mr. *John Gib*, Mr. *Peter Darline*, and Mr. *James* [illegible] to the Province of *Aberdeen*; Mr. *Thomas Frazer* to the Province of *Murray*; Mr. *John Thornborn* to the Provinces of *Roſs*, *Southerland* and *Caithneſs*; And this, beſides two Probationers yet to be Named for *Orkney*, and theſe already appointed for the *North*, by the 19. Act of the ſaid Aſſembly.

At *Edinburgh* 2. *Feb.* 1698.

The Commiſſioners appointed by the late General Aſſembly, Taking to their Conſideration what is committed to them by the 15*th* Act, of the laſt Aſſembly, have agreed to tranſmit theſe Overtures underwriten to the ſeveral Presbytries, conform to the ſaid Act, the Tenor of which Overtures followes.

*Overtures, Concerning the method and form of the procedure of the Judicatories of the Church, againſt Scandalous Perſons,*

WIth Reſpect to Scandals, whoſe Groſſneſs make it neceſſary, to bring the perſons guilty, oftner than once before the Congregation,

1. It is Overtured, that after they are convict before the Seſſion, that it be Judicially declared to them, that they have rendred themſelves uncapable of Communion with the People of God in the Supper of the Lord, and that they ought not be allowed to be Sponſours themſelves in the Baptiſm of their Children till the the Scandal be removed; and that they be appointed to appear in publick to be Rebuked for their Sin, whether they appear Penitent, or not: conform to the Inſtitution 1 *Tim.* 5. 20,

2 After a publick Rebuke, the Miniſter and Elders be at farder pains, in Inſtructing the Minds of the Scandalous Perſons, if Ignorant, in Endeavouring to convince their Conſcience, and to bring them to a due ſenſe of their Sin, and to an Engadgment, and ſerious Reſolution againſt all known Sin, and to the Performance of all known Dutie.

3. That the Seſſion, upon Satisfaction with their knowledge and ſenſe of their Sin, do admit them to the publick Profeſſion of their Repentance, in order to Abſolution.

4. If, after taking pains on them for ſome competent time for their Inſtruction and Conviction, they ſtill remain Groſly Ignorant, inſenſible and unreformed, the Sentence of leſſer Excommunication be publickly pronounced againſt them; from which they are not to be Relaxed, nor Admitted to make publick Profeſſion of their Repentance in order thereto, till the Seſſion be Satisfied with their Knowledge, Seriouſneſs and Reformation.

*FINIS.*